

[Shri A. J. John]

The term of the Neyyattinkara—Vilavancode and Chalakudy-Kunnathunad Community Development Projects and the Kuttanad Development Block will end on 1st October 1956. Thereafter they will be continued as Intensive Development Blocks. The Neyyattinkara—Vilavancode Project will be reckoned as four Intensive Development Blocks and the Chalakudy-Kunnathunad Project as five Intensive Development Blocks. Besides these we have at present three Intensive Development Blocks at Agasteeswaram, Moovattupuzha and Koipuram and eleven National Extension Service Blocks at Mavelikara, Trivandrum (rural) Uzhavur, Pulikeezhu, Chittur, Kottarakara, Nemmara, Changanacherry, Aryad, Ranni and Kazhakuttam. During the Second Five Year Plan period, 76 new N. E. S. Blocks will be started, bringing the total number to 100 which will cover the entire area of the State. Provision has been made in the next year's budget for starting 10 new N. E. S. Blocks and for converting 3 of the existing N. E. S. Blocks into Intensive Development Blocks.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

21. The current year witnessed the consolidation of the activities of the different wings of Local Self Government by the formation of the Local Bodies Department. During the current year the Municipalities continued to be encouraged by the payment of grants and loans. A provision of Rs. 4.55 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for the payment of loans to the Municipalities and another sum of Rs. 13.95 lakhs for grants. Besides these a provision of Rs. 64.00 lakhs has been made for the urban water supply schemes. The cost of these schemes will be initially met by the Government and will ultimately be borne by the Municipalities concerned. Government will aid them by giving half the cost as grant and the other half as loan.

The Panchayat Department had a very busy programme in the current year. The Local Development works are being executed through the Panchayat Department. There is a provision of Rs. 30.80 lakhs in the current year's budget for Local Development works. This scheme evoked considerable local enthusiasm and the people have come forward in large numbers with offers of free gift of land, money and labour. The main items of works under this programme undertaken during the current year include 25 hospital buildings at a cost of Rs. 6.8

lakhs, 70 school buildings at a cost of Rs. 4.6 lakhs, 25 Panchayat Office buildings at a cost of Rs. 2.3 lakhs, besides several roads, wells etc.

The Village Road Development works will also be transferred from the P. W. D. to the Panchayat Department from next year. The main items provided in the next year's Panchayat Department Budget are: Rs. 10.20 lakhs for Minor Irrigation Works, Rs. 11.04 lakhs for payment of statutory grants to the Panchayats, Rs. 1.20 lakhs for payment of establishment grants, Rs. 1.00 lakh for building grants, Rs. 11.00 lakhs for Village Road Works, Rs. 25.60 lakhs for Local Development works, Rs. 0.50 lakh for supply of radios, and Rs. 1.00 lakh for conduct of Panchayat Elections.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES.

22. Government have been bestowing their special and concentrated attention on the matter of advancement of the backward communities, especially scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, who had been for years struggling hard under the yoke of poverty and ignorance. The programme under this item aims at the educational, economic and social development of the backward classes. Facilities such as payment of lump sum grants, stipends and supply of text books to students; grant of land for cultivation and house site; provision of houses, wells, common buildings and burial grounds; organisation of co-operative societies aided by free grants; and starting harijan colonies are some of the important ameliorative measures adopted by Government.

The Second Five Year Plan contemplates a financial outlay of Rs. 154.52 lakhs under the various schemes designed for promoting the welfare of this less fortunate section of society. The provisions made for the next year include Rs. 1.85 lakhs for rendering medical aid to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Rs. 0.42 lakh for organising model welfare centres, Rs. 2.85 lakhs for eradication of untouchability, Rs. 1.44 lakhs for starting colonies, Rs. 19.06 lakhs for giving educational concessions to Scheduled Castes, other Backward Communities and Christian converts, and for providing wells, latrines, burial grounds etc. and Rs. 4.75 lakhs for providing houses for Scheduled Castes.

The Committee appointed by Government in August 1955 to conduct an enquiry into and report on the conditions of Hill